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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 000169

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/18/2019

TAGS: PREL PARM RS IR AE SUBJECT: UAE ASKED TO RESIST RUSSIAN S-300 SALE TO IRAN

REF: STATE 14577

Classified by Ambassador Richard Olson, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Ambassador raised reftel concerns with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Anwar Gargash on February 18. Dr. Gargash understood our concerns about Russian S-300 sales to Iran and said he would reach out to the UAE Embassy in Moscow for its assessment of what influence the UAEG might have on Russian decisions, and also promised to brief Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed. Ambassador stressed the urgency of preventing delivery of weapons which would embolden Iran and have potentially offensive applications.

OLSON